

Letters to the Editor

A Week of Gratitude

Last week reminded us why community truly matters.

On behalf of The SPACE, I am overflowing with gratitude after our Souper Friendsgiving event, where nearly 100 people came together to celebrate friendship, togetherness, good food and shared humanity. From the laughter, to the meals, to the conversations, this was community at its best. A heartfelt thank you to our incredible partners and sponsors: Playtime Project, From Scratch Fundraising and Greenbelt CORES, as well as every volunteer, donor and neighbor who gave their time, gifts, energy and resources. Because of people like you, this work continues to grow and thrive.

We're also proud to share that The SPACE Free Art For All is now an official American Job Center partner. We celebrated our grand opening on Thursday, December 4, with the presence

of our senator, delegates and city council as we continue to connect the dots between creativity, skills-based training, workforce development and opportunity for our community members in need. We're excited for what's ahead as we look toward 2026 and the programs coming right here to Greenbelt.

On top of all that, it was a joy to be part of Sparkle Mart and Winter Wonderland as we create together, share and show off what we do every day. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to make art with us, support the organization and share kind words about what The SPACE means to you. Those reminders matter more than you know.

We also want to celebrate the Pathways School pop-up shop, where local high school students sold items they created through our Artrepreneurship program. They took ideas from imagination

See LETTERS, page 5



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members always \$7.00!
Member kids are always FREE!
After 5 PM: adults \$10, kids \$7,
senior/student/military \$9
Before 5 PM:
general admission \$8, kids \$6
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
DECEMBER 19th - 25th

Hamnet (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (125 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Tues. 8:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM
Thurs. 5:15 PM

Marty Supreme (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (149 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Elf (Sing-along version)
(2003) (97 mins)
Free with suggested donation of
\$5 per person
Bring a NEW pair of socks or
gloves for Greenbelt CARES!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00

When Harry Met Sally ...
(R) (1989) (96 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 2:20 PM
Mon. 2:35 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 2:30 PM
Tues. 8:15 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM

Sleepless in Seattle
(PG-13) (1993) (100 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 5:30 PM
Tues. 5:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM

Misery (R) (1990) (107 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 8:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

A Few Good Men
(R) (1992) (138 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:10 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 5:00 PM
Tue. 5:00 PM

PETE REPERT



FOR CHRISTMAS, I WISH YOU
WOULD MOVE TO GREENBELT!

Christmas and New Year Deadlines

Christmas Day and New Year's Day are both Thursdays this year. Our printer requires us to print a day early, which means advertising and editorial deadlines will be a day early for those issues. Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 22. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 19. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 23 and no ads will be accepted that day.

Submissions: To be considered for publication, articles over 700 words are due by Sunday, December 21 at 2 p.m. All letters to the editor (300-word limit) are due by Sunday, December 21 at 6 p.m. Articles under 700 words and photographs are due by 2 p.m. on Monday, December 22.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 5 p.m. Co-op dropbox: Classified ads with payment only.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Hamnet

From Academy Award-winning writer/director Chloé Zhao, the film tells the powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, Hamlet. The critics' consensus, according to Rotten Tomatoes: "Breaking hearts and mending them in one fell swoop, Hamnet speculates on the inspiration behind Shakespeare's masterpiece with palpable emotional force thanks to Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal's astonishing performances."

Marty Supreme

Marty Mauser (Timothée Chalamet), a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness.

Elf

Buddy (Will Ferrell) was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. As it happens, this is Walter Hobbs (James Caan), a cynical businessman. After a DNA test proves this, Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results.

When Harry Met Sally ...

In 1977, college graduates Harry Burns (Billy Crystal) and Sally Albright (Meg Ryan) share a contentious car ride from Chicago to New York, during which they argue about whether men and women can ever truly be strictly platonic friends. Ten years later, Harry and Sally meet again at a bookstore, and in the company of their respective best friends, Jess (Bruno Kirby) and Marie (Carrie Fisher), attempt to stay friends without sex becoming an issue between them.

Sleepless in Seattle

After the death of his wife, Sam Baldwin (Tom Hanks) moves to Seattle with his son, Jonah (Ross Malinger). When Jonah calls in to a talk-radio program to find a new wife for his father, Sam grudgingly gets on the line to discuss his feelings. Annie Reed (Meg Ryan), a reporter in Baltimore, hears Sam speak and falls for him, even though she is engaged. Unsure where it will lead, she writes Sam a letter asking him to meet her at the Empire State Building on Valentine's Day.

Misery

After a serious car crash, novelist Paul Sheldon (James Caan) is rescued by former nurse Annie Wilkes (Kathy Bates), who claims to be his biggest fan. Annie brings him to her remote cabin to recover, where her obsession takes a dark turn when she discovers Sheldon is killing off her favorite character from his novels. As Sheldon devises plans for escape, Annie grows increasingly controlling, even violent, as she forces the author to shape his writing to suit her twisted fantasies.

A Few Good Men

Lt. Daniel Kaffee (Tom Cruise) is a military lawyer defending two U.S. Marines charged with killing a fellow Marine at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. Although Kaffee is known for seeking plea bargains, a fellow lawyer, Lt. Cdr. JoAnne Galloway (Demi Moore), convinces him that the accused marines were most likely carrying out an order from a commanding officer. Kaffee takes a risk by calling Col. Nathan R. Jessep (Jack Nicholson) to the stand in an effort to uncover the conspiracy.

Community Events

At the Library

All Prince George’s County Memorial Library System libraries will be closed on December 24 and 25. There is a systemwide hiatus of PGCMLS programs from December 20 through January 3. This includes the passport service. The Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, December 19, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/14888012.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Library is once again teaming up with the Washington Wizards. The challenge runs December 15, 2025, to March 14, 2026. Complete and log activities including reading, watching Wizards games, attending library programs (virtual or in person), staying active and engaging with the Library and Washington Wizards. Readers who complete the challenge will have a chance to win a variety of prizes including game tickets and a Wizards prize pack. Register at pgcmls.beanstack.org/reader365. All ages are welcome.

Free Spay/Neuter Rabies Shots for Pets

Greenbelt residents are eligible for a free spay/neuter procedure and a rabies shot for their pet, through a Maryland Department of Agriculture grant until December 31. Control pet overpopulation and keep pets healthier at no cost.

To apply, contact Greenbelt Animal Services at animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov or call 301-474-6124. Don’t wait and miss out at the end of the year during the busy holidays – make an appointment now.



Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Ukelele Ladies Holiday Singalong December 19

Greenbelt’s Ukelele Ladies will host a holiday singalong at the New Deal Café on Friday, December 19 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Lyric sheets will be available, and everyone is invited. Community sign language will be provided. Come join the fun.

Volunteer to Drive For GIVES

Want to meet fellow Greenbelters and help them out at the same time? The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) always needs volunteers, especially drivers. Choose when and where you will drive (within the 10-mile limit) and if you are also willing and able to help with carrying groceries or other packages.

To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES (membership is free), have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and pass a background check. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. The December and January theme is Otters.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5772. Visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center for more information.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

Greenbelt Honk! Situation Solstice

Join Greenbelt Honk! Situation, Greenbelt’s community street band, on Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m. as they parade and play music to bring back the daylight. The parade will start at the Greenbelt Firefly Sanctuary and continue down the creek trail past Braden Field and arrive for a set of holiday “Scarols” at Roosevelt Center. Bring lights and warm clothes.

The route is relatively flat and paved with a grade by the fields and just short of a mile. Folks who can’t parade are encouraged to meet up at Roosevelt Center.



Français, s’il Vous Plaît: At the Youth Center

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the Youth Center every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (except holidays). All ages and all levels of fluency are welcome.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Patuxent Refuge 2026 Calendar on Sale

Patuxent Research Refuge 2026 calendars feature 12 months of stunning nature photography of animals and plants seen at the refuge, as well as a look back through time at the Refuge’s 90 years of wildlife conservation.

Award-winning photographers donated use of their photos to support this fundraiser on behalf of Friends of Patuxent’s work. All profits help support the Refuge and the USGS Eastern Ecological Science Center.

Calendars can be purchased at the Wildlife Images Bookstore and Nature Shop or online at friendsofpatuxent.org/shop.

Concert Band Holds Open House

Ready to make music, meet great people and grow your musicianship in a fun, supportive environment? Come to an open house for new Greenbelt Concert Band members on Monday, January 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center.

About the Band

The band plays for the joy of music and lifelong musical growth. They warmly welcome musicians of all levels who enjoy making music in a friendly, community-oriented setting. Regular rehearsals are on Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. from September to June.

Not a musician? Join the fun. Become a Band Aide, a friend and supporter. Band Aides help welcome concert attendees, assist with setup and breakdown, and capture photos or videos for social media and promotions.

It’s also a great opportunity for students seeking service credit hours.

Learn more about the band at greenbeltconcertband.org.



Mentoring Open House December 20

Join Boys to Men Mentoring Greater Washington and Girls to Women Mentoring Greater Washington for an Open House event on Saturday, December 20, 2 to 7 p.m. at the Youth Center. This event is designed to introduce the group’s mission and programs to the community while offering delicious food, a circle for boys and girls, a gift card giveaway and opportunities for discussion.

PORCH Initiative: More Important Than Ever

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in December as scheduled below. Food placed on porches by the time listed will be picked up after that time.

Saturday, December 20 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, December 21 – by 4 p.m. on for Eastway

Sunday, December 21 – by 4 p.m. at 33 Court Ridge Road

Sunday, December 21 – after 6 p.m. for 11-S Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, December 21 – after 6 p.m. for 8 and 10 Courts Southway

Sunday, December 28 – by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on December 28 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to your porch. (Note: regular pickup change.)



Mahjong Group Meets Weekly on Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Mahjong Group meets Wednesdays at 1 p.m. in the Senior Game Room in the Community Center. Instructional classes are offered periodically. Check the Fall Recreation Guide for details.

Send Your Holiday Greetings Far and Wide!!

Each year, the News Review publishes Holiday Greetings from area residents. Greetings will be published in the issue requested. Deadlines for submitting greetings are **Mondays at 4 p.m. (except Sundays, December 21 & 28 at 4 p.m.)**

Display Ad Rates apply. Contact the Ad Desk at 301-474-4131 or go to greenbeltnewsreview.com/submit-a-display-ad

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 12/18	FRI 12/19	SAT 12/20	SUN 12/21	
Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30 Long-running blues jam. All skill levels are welcome!	UKULELE LADIES HOLIDAY SING-ALONG, 4-5:30p Proverbs Reggae Band 8 - 11pm Rootz reggae band	POETRY OPEN MIC, 11am - 1pm COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, 3:30 - 5pm Bad Influence 8 - 11pm Fresh energy into blues and roots music - a real crowd pleaser!	Grateful Sunday Featuring Great Northern 6 - 8pm Capturing the creativity, dynamics and energy of the Grateful Dead	
MON 12/22	TUES 12/23	WED 12/24	TH 12/25	New Deal Cafe
LIVE BAND KARAOKE 7 - 9:30pm w/ Mike Scott & Friends	NDC Open Mic w/ Carla Monardes 6 - 9:30pm Sign ups begin at 6pm	CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLING 2 - 4pm CAFE CLOSING AT 5PM	CHRISTMAS DAY Cafe closed Happy Holidays!	DON'T FORGET TO TIP OUR PERFORMERS! That's the only way we pay them and we want them back!

*Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot) com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Mishkan Torah Welcomes New Cantor Yael Fischman

by Derson Gilson

On Sunday, December 14, Mishkan Torah hosted a family-friendly Hanukkah celebration for kids and adults of all ages, with a Hanukkah storytime, a candle-lighting ceremony, music, latkes, doughnuts and more. The special occasion was also the installation of new Cantor Yael Fischman.

Fischman has been involved with the congregation for many years, directing the education programs and working closely with families. This Hanukkah celebration was her first time serving as the congregation's cantor for a holiday service.

At Mishkan Torah the cantor is more than a musical leader. Fischman steps into the role long held by Phil Greenfield, who served in that position for 44 years. Greenfield described the cantor as "the person who brings knowledge from the past into the future and keeps it updated," blending traditional chants with modern songs to connect people with their heritage while moving forward.

The cantor is also a teacher and guide, Greenfield explained. "The cantor teaches all members of the congregation," he said, making it possible for anyone with the proper skills to lead services. Cantors work closely with rabbis to guide the congrega-

tion, support the community and direct religious school programs that nurture the next generation of Jewish adults.

For Greenfield, the most meaningful part of being a cantor has been the personal connections. "Even after doing it for so many years, there are still really special prayers that get the tingle," he said. Watching children grow into young adults and celebrating milestones like bar and bat mitzvahs has created lasting memories. Working with children inspired intergenerational services that allow families to participate together in meaningful ways.

Fischman plans to continue and expand these programs, focusing on interfaith understanding and connection. "I want them to be happy and proud of the fact that they have Jewish heritage, but also happy and proud of whatever other heritage they have," she said.

The cantor's role symbolizes continuity, education and spiritual guidance. Through song and teaching, the cantor bridges tradition and the evolving life of the congregation.

Derson Gilson is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



Congratulations to Mishkan Torah's new cantor, Yael Fischman. She was installed at a celebration on December 14.

The News Review wishes a very happy Hanukkah, a very merry Christmas and happy winter solstice to our readers.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



In Memoriam To My Dad Haven McKinney on His Birthday

My dad died peacefully this past March. He would have been 83 on December 17. I want to share a few things about him.

My dad and mom had both been divorced. He moved to Greenbelt where at 29 years old he met and married my mom, who had five kids to his one. He legally adopted all five of us. Think about a 29-year-old doing that.

His own dad had taught him carpentry and he immediately filled our house with his works. He built an outdoor picnic table and benches long enough for our family of eight. This was in the days where there was no Home Depot or Lowe's so he went to a lumber yard, a hardware store and a paint store. He then happily grilled dinners for us in the summertime.

He built us an indoor table as well because, again, family of eight. He built a buffet cabinet that went from one end of our dining room to the other. He built us bunkbeds. He built a vanity with mirrors for the girls and a three-way mirror for mom. I could go on and on.

In his life my dad had some really cool jobs too. Actually too many to mention, but he was a cameraman and a sound tech. He got to work with Pat Benatar, who he said was so kind and friendly. He worked on the Walter Cronkite Chronicles and got to go out on his boat with him. Walter actually had the crew to his house

for dinner! When American Idol was in the area my dad did the sound for the show. He worked on the movie Fist as a sound person as well as countless documentaries and some commercials. He got an Addy award for one.

One of his favorite works ever was doing the video for the Slickee Boys' When I Go to the Beach. He made it a fun comical video. It was 1983 and my dad had experience with special effects so he put the Slickee Boys on a surfboard in a quick part at the end. It's funny and it was new. The video placed second in MTV's Basement Tapes. The video was written up in Rolling Stone magazine where they called my dad

"Video Wiz Haven McKinney." We kept that framed on the wall for decades.

I am forever grateful that my dad and my sister came into our lives and became part of our family. Happy Birthday in Heaven, Dad.

Love from Ginger Brown

Haven McKinney, of Greenbelt, died peacefully at his home on March 18, 2025. See his obituary in the April 10 issue.



"Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship." – Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Community Center Room 114

15 Crescent Rd

cathcomgreenbelt.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!

For ZOOM link:

CCG1985+owner@groups.io

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for

Worship & Sunday School

at 10:00 AM

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

December 21, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Welcome Yule!

Eldritch with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty

As is the pattern and wisdom of Nature – We gather – We connect – We reflect. As a community we learn from each other. We offer inspiration and nurture intuition. Renewed by our time together, we depart carrying with us images, music, words and wishes for today, tomorrow and the years ahead.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

One Hillside Road

Join Us Sunday

10:15 AM for Worship

www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

We Are an Open and Affirming Church

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

Christmas at St. Andrew's

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Eucharist & Children's Pageant, 5 pm

Children may participate by arriving at 4:45 pm, - no previous rehearsal required.

Festive Eucharist, 10 pm

Carols beginning at 9:30 pm

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Choral Eucharist, 10:30 am

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

4512 College Ave. | College Park, MD 20740

saeccp.org 301-864-8880 office@saeccp.org

Letters continued from page 2

to reality using 3D printers, laser engravers and Cricut machines. Watching them step into ownership of their creativity and business skills was deeply moving.

I am truly blessed to be able to steward this type of magic. My heart is warm and full, and I look forward to continuing to Share Positive Artistic and Creative Energies with the Greenbelt community and beyond.

Shaymar Higgs

A Neutral Color, Please

As some readers or residents may know, the WSSC Standpipe Rehabilitation Project (AKA city water tower) has commenced at the corner of Lastner Lane and Ridge Road, and the property that once stood at 241 Lastner Lane has been demolished. The city council recently released a community survey soliciting feedback on the future color scheme of the standpipe, and we are writing as Greenbelt residents who live closest to the tower and see it daily.

The water tower exists as essential infrastructure, and shouldn't be treated as a billboard or landmark competing for attention. Its current neutral light sky blue tone serves a deliberate and responsible purpose: it blends naturally into the surrounding landscape and sky, minimizing



Work at the standpipe is in earnest. The adjacent home (241 Lastner Lane, owned by Nelly and Steve Hanyok from 1965 to 2005) has been demolished and property clean-up continues.

PHOTO BY MARK HANYOK

visual intrusion for those who live with it every day. For residents whose homes and backyards face the tower, this restraint matters, not as a matter of taste, but of daily quality of life. The trees and house that once covered the surrounding area are now gone, making the standpipe even more visible from our yards, windows and street.

Before a final decision is made at the next council meeting on January 12, we ask that our community consider the most neutral color scheme when casting their

vote, leaving the standpipe as the silent giant that's existed for 90 years, innocuous in nature.

Melanie Cantwell, Julian Court
Thomas Zeller, Julian Court
Flory Lietz, Julian Court
Daniel and Linnea Gomez, Lastner Lane
Kemari Legg & Katherine Campanile, Lastner Lane
Kelly Brower & Christopher Mertens, Lastner Lane

SAYT and Capital One
If you want to buy a Max Trash sticker online, the WasteZe-

ro website only accepts Visa and MasterCard. By agreement with the company that processes payments for them, QualPay, does not accept Discover. When my Capital One Mastercard got close to its expiration date, they sent me a Discover card with the same PIN.

Here we're dealing with a requirement for city services and I tried to think of how one can handle it.

1) Show up in person at the Municipal Building Finance Window, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pay by check. Those with jobs that require you to report to the worksite will have to take time off to do this. Do banks charge fees for check processing? If there's a way to mail checks, it's not listed at the SAYT page for Greenbelt.

2) Start an account at a bank that uses Visa or Mastercard, and remember to put more money in once or twice a year. Banks may have minimum deposits for you to get a card. Consumer reporters warn about having multiple credit cards and the risk of increased debt, which affects your credit score, so you would have to manage that risk.

3) Start an account at a bank that uses Visa or Mastercard and transfer everything to it from Capital One. Closing out your Capital

One account means you have to contact anybody sending you things by direct deposit and send them to the new account, as well as logging in on every site where you have automatic payments to change those. If you have an outstanding loan with Capital One, I don't know what to tell you.

Those are the ideas I came up with in 24 hours. Some of you may have other or better ideas.

Patricia Heil

City Website Inaccuracy

I am writing to call attention to an inaccuracy on the City of Greenbelt's official website regarding Buddy Attick Park. The site currently states that parking permits are required to use the park's lot. In reality, no such permits have been required for many years according to the Department of Planning and Community Development, and visitors continue to park freely without issue. This outdated information may discourage new residents and visitors from enjoying one of Greenbelt's most popular community spaces. I urge the city to update the website to reflect current practice so that the public receives clear and accurate guidance.

Ryan Elder



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 22-26

Monday, December 22, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL WINTER RECESS**

Wednesday, December 24, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL WINTER RECESS**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:30pm
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution Number 2025-03 – Resolution Number 2124: A Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend §3-22 "Powers" of the City Charter to Authorize the City of Greenbelt to Engage in Collective Bargaining with a Representative of Public Works Employees by Following Procedures in Amended Article VIII of Chapter 13 of the City Code.

City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on January 12, 2026, at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

SAVE AS YOU THROW MAXTRASH STICKERS

MaxTrash stickers for the upcoming Save As You Throw program are now available for purchase online at <https://myflexusa.com/industries> or in-person at the Greenbelt Municipal Building Finance Window, 25 Crescent Road.

- Pay \$70 for 6 months (\$140/year)
- Toss up to 3 large bags per week in any brand bag
- Total annual cost: \$240 base + \$140 = \$380/year

If you opt for the SAYT trash bags over the MaxTrash sticker, you can find them in-person at the following locations:

- **COOP Supermarket, 121 Centerway**
- **Beltway Plaza Hardware Store, 6000 Greenbelt Road (Beltway Plaza)**

For more information visit <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/SAYT>

CURRENT GAIL PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs **FREE** of charge. For more information, email Katherine Farzin at kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2019.

- **OPEN COMPUTER LAB FOR ADULTS** 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Weekly sign-up required.
- **FREE MONTHLY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION** Greenbelt Residents Only. First time participants must provide proof of residency, state-issued ID, birth certificate (or copy) for each child.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2025-2026

Week	Location	Holiday
December 22-26	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 29 - January 2	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

STATEMENT FROM GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL ON NEW WAVE OF HATEFUL FLYERS

December 17, 2025

Dear Greenbelt Residents,

The Greenbelt City Council is aware of new reports of hateful and intimidating stickers posted in several locations around the city. This activity follows similar incidents involving flyers earlier this fall.

We condemn these actions in the strongest possible terms. Materials that promote fear, intimidation, or division—particularly those targeting immigrant and Latino members of our community—are unacceptable and do not reflect Greenbelt's values.

These flyers are intended to create division and dehumanize our neighbors. They do not represent the values that define Greenbelt. Our city has a longstanding commitment to fairness, compassion, and inclusion. Every Greenbelt resident - regardless of immigration status, national origin, race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity, religious belief, sexual orientation, or family status - is a valued and respected member of our community.

Greenbelt remains committed to being a welcoming city. We stand firmly against discrimination, harassment, and attempts to make any member of our community feel unsafe or unwelcome. Acts that target or threaten individuals based on who they are, have no place here.



To all who call Greenbelt home: You belong. You matter. We will continue working together to ensure that Greenbelt remains a community where all residents feel safe and are treated with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,
The Greenbelt City Council

UPCOMING FOOD GIVEAWAYS

Thursday, December 18 at 1 PM
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Limited to 100 Greenbelt households with one box being given per address. Call Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov to register.

Thursday, December 22 at 10 AM
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Registration is required. Call Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 to receive a produce card before distribution day.

Participants must provide proof of Greenbelt residency. Contact Kathrine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov to learn more.



planned metrorail track work advisory for our community

GREEN LINE TRACK WORK IN DECEMBER

Metro would like to inform riders of [planned track work](#) on the Metrorail system that may affect service in our area for the month of December.

From December 16-30, no stations will be closed, but the Green Line will single-track through three stations: U Street, Columbia Heights, and Georgia Av-Petworth. This work is part of ongoing efforts to maintain safety and service across the system.

A majority (or quorum) of Greenbelt City Council members may attend community organization meetings, but no official Council action will be taken at these meetings. Please note that meeting locations may change after being published. For information on how to join these meetings, contact the respective organization directly.

* VOLUNTEER * VACANCIES * APPLY FOR A COMMITTEE OR BOARD TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. We stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Learn more www.greenbeltmd.gov/KYR.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Sign up for ARTFANS, a weekly e-newsletter, at www.greenbeltmd.gov/list.aspx.

Artful Afternoons - FREE

Sunday, 1/4 1-3pm Greenbelt Community Center, Sunday 1/11 1:30-2:30pm Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Enjoy a fun, all ages, free art activity! Walk-ins welcome. Sign up at sugeni.us/ehUi

FREE Art Meet-Ups

Looking to make art during the session break? Two community groups continue to meet, starting in January! Yarn & Darn meets on Wednesdays from 7-9pm, and Craft and Create meets on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm. Both groups meet in the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 113.

MORE ARTS HAPPENING SOON

- **Friends & Family Workshops: Wool Felting onto Sweaters**
Friday 1/16, 5:30-7:30pm
Greenbelt Community Center
- **Sewing Hands-On History**
1/14-2/11, 1-3pm & 4:45-6:45pm
Greenbelt Community Center

Greenbelt Nonprofit Favor’s Table Offers Food, Clothes, Skills, Hope

by Derson Gilson

On Saturday, December 13, Favor’s Table held a financial literacy class in the tall building beside McDonald’s on Greenbelt Road. The class was for adults who had never attended it before and also offered participants bags of food, clothes, bras and shoes. The Greenbelt-based nonprofit is working to combat food insecurity while also helping residents build long-term stability through education and skill building.

Favor’s Table was founded in 2020 by Kehinde Chol, who goes by K, in response to growing need during the Covid-19 pandemic. Originally from Nigeria, Chol said the organization began as a small outreach effort delivering food to families, seniors and individuals facing hardship.

“There was a lot of food insecurity during the pandemic,” Chol said. “So, it started as an outreach where I deliver food to families and seniors and people that are less privileged.”

Since then, Favor’s Table has expanded into a multiservice program offering food distribution, clothing, household items, diapers and hygiene kits. The organization also provides ESL classes, computer literacy training, job readiness assistance and weekend financial literacy workshops



Favor's Table hosted a giveaway of food and clothing on Saturday, December 13.

aimed at helping participants gain independence.

Funding remains one of the organization’s biggest challenges. Chol said some limited funding was received from the City of Greenbelt earlier this year, but much of the operation is supported through personal funds and in-kind donations such as food and clothing.

The program serves a diverse population operating at various distribution sites throughout the DMV area. According to Chol, most participants are Hispanic,

along with Black Americans, white residents and refugees from Afghanistan. Families travel from across the DMV region to access services.

“It’s not just about food,” Chol said. “I need to also empower people. I need to teach them how to fish.”

One participant, Islam, said the organization has made a significant difference for his family. He highlighted the availability of free food and clothing for children as especially helpful.

“They help people,” Islam said. “They give food and clothes for kids.”

Chol said the goal of Favor’s Table is to address hunger while also equipping people with skills that reduce long-term dependence on government benefits or food pantries.

“We’re fighting hunger in every zip code,” she said. “People see us as a last source of hope.”

Community members interested in supporting Favor’s Table through volunteering or donations can call Chol at 202-468-2049 or visit favorstable.com for more information.

Derson Gilson is a student at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

U.S. Bill of Rights Day Was Observed on December 15

by Joan Estenson

At a time when our rights as laid out in the Bill of Rights seem to be disappearing, it feels especially important to celebrate Bill of Rights Day, observed on December 15 in the United States.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation that dedicated December 15, 1941, as Bill of Rights Day in honor of the Constitution and to celebrate the 150th anniversary of ratification of the first 10 amendments. The first Bill of Rights Day took place just eight days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and America’s entry into World War II.

President Harry Truman issued another proclamation five years later after Congress requested to observe Bill of Rights Day again, a year after the end of World War II. In 1952, President Truman proclaimed the Bill of Rights Day to be observed every year.

The Bill of Rights codifies the theory of natural rights, which

holds that humans are granted certain freedoms and liberties by God and that the state should not have the power to infringe upon those rights. It incorporates the basic rights every human being should have, rights that should be inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status, and includes freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the right to protest and equal protection under the law.

The Bill of Rights is displayed in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., as a reminder to all Americans of their constitutional freedoms.



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Reducing Food Waste Is Holiday Gift to the Community, Planet

by Tom Taylor

With the holidays upon us and plans underway for gatherings and meals with family and friends, Greenbelters have an opportunity to offer a gift to the community and the planet by reducing food waste in their holiday meals.

ReFed, a nonprofit organization dedicated to food waste reduction, estimated that on Thanksgiving Day 2024 alone, 320 million pounds of food would be wasted. This is equal to \$550 million worth of uneaten food discarded and to 267 million meals that could have been served to people in need.

ReFed also reports wasted food has significant negative impact on the environment and natural resources. Analysis of 2023 data revealed that discarded food created 230 metric tons of greenhouse gases, the equivalent of 54 million cars and 18 percent of registered vehicles in the United States.

Production of this surplus food also meant wasted use of 16.2 trillion gallons of water (more than the total freshwater use of California and Idaho combined) and 140 million acres of U.S. cropland (equivalent to the combined size of California and New York State).

Food waste is the largest single component of everyday trash sent to the landfill. Nationwide, food thrown away is 24 percent of landfill municipal solid waste, according to a 2023 joint report by the EPA, USDA and FDA. Discarded food waste comprises 22 percent of residential waste in the Prince George’s County landfill, according to the most recent waste composition study (2022).

Actions are available for Greenbelt residents to tackle this food waste problem. ReFed recommends the following steps to reduce food waste:

- Maximize use of leftovers by sending guests home with surplus food, planning ahead to have ingredients on hand for your favorite leftover meal and clearing freezer space for food that still remains after a couple of days.
- Adopt meal preparation changes to save money and reduce waste. Such changes include using leftovers more in general, being more aware of using fresh foods before they go bad, buying more frozen foods, using only what is needed for a meal and reducing nonessential items.
- Donate surplus nonperishable food to food banks, pantries and distribution programs. While

such programs may not accept leftovers, one can donate nonperishable surplus items such as canned and packaged goods and shelf-stable ingredients.

- Keep wasted food out of the landfill by composting. If there is still surplus food after the above steps, the City of Greenbelt offers three composting options to avoid throwing food into the landfill:
 - Curbside food scrap pickup for \$10 a month through Compost Crew, the city’s contractor for the program. Register at compostcrew.com/greenbelt.
 - Free food scrap drop-off at the Recycling Center at Buddy Attick Park. Learn details at <https://tinyurl.com/3n7j45uu>.
 - Backyard composting bins are available at a discount through Public Works. Call 301-474-8004.

For holiday giving, Greenbelters may consider a gift certificate for the curbside pickup program for Greenbelt friends or neighbors. Gift certificates may be purchased at compostcrew.com/greenbelt.

The holidays offer all these ways to provide a gift of food waste reduction to the city, to the planet and to individual neighbors and friends.

City of Greenbelt Trash Collection Changes in January 2026

by John Lippert

Residents receiving city trash collection must decide to purchase either city-approved bags or a Max Trash sticker. What other changes are happening?

Skipping Collection

What if residents don’t want their trash collected that week?

Single-family home residents will continue to take trash cans to curbs for pickup, and not take it to the curb when they don’t want it picked up.

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) residents who do not wish to have their trash picked up should keep their trash can in their utility closet/enclosure. Trash collectors will not go into trash enclosures or utility closets to access trash unless there is an official disability exception. This change in collection procedure allows residents to decide whether to set out trash each week, and will clearly indicate when trash is ready for pickup. This change also reflects trash collectors’ long-standing request for more efficient and time-saving collection.

GHI residents wishing to have trash collected should remove trash and recycling containers from trash enclosures or utility closets on the day of collection or the night before. Containers should be placed in a visible and accessible location on their unit’s service side with recycling bins. There is no need to place containers far from enclosures. The important point is that containers are outside the enclosure and are easily accessible and visible to collectors. After collection, residents should return containers to trash closets or enclosures. To make it easier to move receptacles, residents may consider purchasing a smaller, easier to maneuver trash bin.

A letter from Public Works to GHI residents explaining the collection procedure change, and the complete GHI rule (6.2.1.1) regarding waste collection, can be found under “GHI Change of Rules” on the SAYT Program website (greenbeltnmd.gov/SAYT).

Call for Bulk Trash and Yard Waste

Single-family households must call Public Works to schedule bulk trash and yard waste pickups, which GHI households already do.

Trash Cans

Storage and handling of trash by Greenbelt homeowners receiving city trash service is controlled by city ordinance. GHI has more stringent requirements than the city, for example, limiting trash containers to 32 gallons.

City ordinances and GHI regulations require trash be placed into trash cans with tight-fitting lids and handles for lifting. This was not previously enforced and some GHI residents place trash bags directly in utility closets/enclosures. Beginning in 2026, households must use trash cans or will be cited.

Enforcement

Starting in January, if residents put out commercial trash bags without a Max Trash sticker on their trashcan, trash collectors will leave a warning explaining what the resident needs to do. If the resident does not do it correctly the second week, trash collectors will leave another notice and will not pick up the trash. After that, fines will be issued for noncompliance.

John Lippert is chair, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES)/Green Team.

SAYT continued from page 1

Jim Sterling retired, succeeded by Willis Shafer in June 2022, who left the position in December 2023. Assistant Director Brian Kim served as Interim Director until being appointed Director in early 2025.

Use of SAYT Revenue

The new \$240 base fee and SAYT bag and Max Trash sticker revenue will contribute to all waste collection costs, including personnel, county tipping and recycling fees, yard waste and bulk trash service, and truck operations, said Salmerón.

The SAYT bag and Max Trash sticker prices represent estimated trash tipping fees for the bag or Max Trash volume, according to messaging from city staff and council’s Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES). However, Salmerón told the News Review that does not mean bag and sticker revenue will fund only tipping fees. Rather that revenue will contribute to all components of the waste collection budget and reducing its deficit, because generating more trash increases not only tipping fees, but also personnel effort and costs for truck maintenance and fuel. The same personnel and equipment that collect household trash also collect household recycling and yard waste, collect trash and recycling from city parks, playgrounds and buildings, and from city events throughout the year. The revenue will also fund collecting bulk trash and appliances.



Beltway Plaza Hardware will carry only medium bags while assessing demand.

County, \$503 in Rockville and \$549.59 in Montgomery County. Greenbelt’s SAYT pilot will set a \$240 base fee for all city-served households, plus each household’s costs for SAYT bags and/or Max Trash stickers. Salmerón told the News Review that many Greenbelt household SAYT costs, or even the approximately \$400 flat fee considered for every household before choosing the SAYT pilot, would be lower than some nearby jurisdictions that provide less service than Greenbelt.

Fiscal Responsibility

Salmerón says it’s difficult to predict how well the pilot will address the deficit, given variables including how many households will select SAYT bags or Max Trash stickers, and how much waste households will avoid or divert to recycling, composting or other options. He emphasized that 2026 is a pilot. Revenue and resident feedback will be evaluated as the city determines whether to continue the program, or raise fees for all households regardless of their trash volume.

Salmerón said many homeowners appreciate the quality and low cost of Greenbelt waste collection services. He said Green ACES saw the deficit as an opportunity to explore better waste management services and allocate its cost proportionally to users. As city manager, Salmerón said he must address a service whose cost is unsustainable by current rates and is being subsidized by the general fund and city taxpayers who don’t receive the service. His role and responsibility is to deliver the services residents and council want while ensuring user fees reflect the true cost of those services, he said.

Monitor greenbeltnmd.gov/SAYT for program updates.



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UNIONIZATION continued from page 1

COUNCIL continued from page 1

collective bargaining rights for all city employees, but some stated that if that is not possible now, then at least for Public Works employees. Additional input from residents urged council to proceed without delay; one resident stated that over the past few months he has interviewed hundreds of voters and unionization is “wildly popular” in Greenbelt.

Introducing the agenda issue, Councilmember Jenni Pompei said, “My preference would be for the all-employees charter amendment. I think it’s easier for us now to open up bargaining to anyone who’s interested. That way we don’t have to come back and continually amend the charter anytime any members of our city staff would like to organize.”

Greenbelt Far Behind

Also supporting the all-employees amendment, Councilmember Frankie Fritz invoked Article 23 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “Everyone ... has the right to form and join trade unions.” He argued that Greenbelt is “far behind” and has been very slow in granting this basic human right for its employees, other than the sworn officers of the Police Department.

Mayor Emmett Jordan and a few other councilmembers counselled moving more slowly on an all-employees charter amendment because of the need for more clarity in the language currently before them, including defining the types of eligible employees, addressing overlap among types of employees in city departments and so on. Councilmember Kristen Weaver suggested that council strike a “balance between being appropriately speedy (as in the case of the Public Works recent request for bargaining rights), but also not moving too quickly if there is some consideration that might warrant a worksession on the framework for the process of unionization for the rest of the city.”

Resolution Adoption

Eventually, Councilmember Silke Pope moved to adopt the resolution to introduce the first reading of the charter amendment and Weaver seconded the motion. Only Fritz voted against it because he felt council should be moving quickly toward an all-employees charter amendment, not just for Public Works.

Other Actions

Mayor Emmett Jordan issued a proclamation declaring December 10 as Human Rights Day in Greenbelt and expressed the city’s continued commitment to dignity, equity and the protection of human rights for all residents. Council took the following actions: 1) approved the Greenbelt

Park and Recreation Advisory Board’s recommendation to initiate planning for a dog park at Northway Fields; 2) approved a letter to Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) promoting collaboration between PGCPS and Greenbelt on community engagement efforts; 3) authorized the city manager to contract with Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc. to provide survey services for the city; 4) re-appointed James Drake to serve another term on Greenbelt’s Advisory Planning Board; 5) introduced and gave a first reading of a proposed ordinance to amend Greenbelt’s Code to authorize regulation of plug-in parking within the city’s corporate limits; 6) gave a second reading of, and adopted, a resolution authorizing the city manager to implement Electric Vehicle (EV) charging fees and operating procedures for EV charging stations at the Municipal Building; 7) voted to pay Greenbelt’s annual dues to the Prince George’s County Municipal Association but also to send a letter to the association outlining the concerns of several councilmembers regarding how the association manages its funds; 8) decided councilmember appointments for serving in 2026 on the boards and committees of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; and 9) authorized the city manager to execute two contracts, one with Innovative Pyrotechnic Concepts, LLC, for the 2026 Independence Day Fireworks Display and the other for the renewal of the natural gas supply for city facilities.

At the end of the televised meeting, council moved into a closed session.

Cathie Meetre assisted with this report.



Councilmember Jenni Pompei said, “It’s important that residents hear from council that we recognize that this is a problem and we’re dedicated to moving forward in a way that solves the problem ... We’re going to empower the city manager to do everything he can to see how we can bring more providers and better service.”

Councilmember Kristin Weaver added that it’s also an issue of cellphone towers and wondered if perhaps shorter/smaller towers and other new tech devices could be considered. In one example of alternatives to tall cellphone towers, City Manager Josué Salmerón described New Carrollton’s move to allow small cellphone towers to be attached to lighting poles, which provide not only good coverage but also revenue for the city. Jordan ended the discussion by expressing his expectation of a “lively discussion” among residents and council at the worksession on January 5.

Traffic Calming Study

Assistant Director of Planning Jaime Fearer summarized for council and residents a recently completed 500-page report on speeding conditions and proposed measures to address them on five roadways in Greenbelt’s center city area. The roadways include Ridge Road from Lastner Lane to Westway, Lakeside Drive from Lakecrest Drive to Crescent Road, Lastner Lane from Ridge Road to Crescent Road, Greenhill Road from Crescent Road to Research Road and Hillside Road from Crescent Road to Research Road.

The study team included Fearer, Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby and Greenman-Pederson, Inc., design consultants. The study began in the fall of 2023 with very detailed data collection on vehicle speeds and volumes on the five subject roadways. The team presented a draft report to Greenbelt’s Advisory Planning Board (APB) on October 16, 2024, held

a community/public meeting on October 29, 2024, and presented its findings and recommendations at a council worksession on November 20, 2024. Based on comments received, the team revised its report and submitted its final report to the APB this October and to council in this meeting. A graphic adapted from the report shows some of the results (see page 1).

Calming Alternatives

The study provides an overview of design strategies and traffic calming treatments that were and were not considered and why. Design strategies among the team’s final recommendations include reductions in lane widths, rectangular rapid flashing beacons (i.e., pedestrian-activated devices at crosswalks that use bright, rapid-flashing yellow LED lights to alert drivers that someone is crossing), continental crosswalks (i.e., longitudinal stripes designating where to walk across the road), green pavement for bike lanes at intersections, corner radii and curb extensions, departure-side bus stops, midblock crosswalks, hardened centerlines and medians, pinch-points and chokers (i.e., road sections that narrow, creating bottlenecks that force traffic to slow down or stop), raised crosswalks and shared lane markings or sharrows (i.e., pave-

ment markings indicating a travel lane shared by motorists and bicyclists).

The study suggests short- and long-term countermeasures at 22 locations to reduce vehicular speeds and potential collisions, and additional improvements to enhance pedestrian and cyclist “connectivity” (i.e., seamless, safe and accessible networks of sidewalks, paths and bike lanes that link people to destinations). Each of the 22 locations is assigned low, medium or high priority based on vehicle volumes, speeds and collisions. The short- and long-term recommendations and accompanying cost estimates are conceptual, and implementation will require additional engineering consultation.

In one of the questions from councilmembers and residents, resident Michael Hartman asked if the study has considered the various challenges facing persons with disabilities. In response, Fearer said that several ADA accessibility adjustments have been considered – for example, wider raised crosswalks that do not require a step up from the sidewalk – and more will be considered during implementation. After she concluded her presentation, council voted unanimously for a January 5 worksession.

Cathie Meetre assisted with this report.



Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send “actual size”, or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.





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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 8-14, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death, one mental health diversion and three domestic incidents, one with a weapon resulting in arrest.

On December 8, officers responded to a domestic call where a suspect fired a single shot at the ground and then fled.

On December 13 at 2:13 p.m. near 7200 Hanover Drive, an electrical contractor was injured while working and was transported to the hospital.

Missing Persons

On December 10 near 400 Ridge Road, a missing juvenile returned safely.

On December 12 near 6600 Lake Park Drive, a girl diagnosed with bipolar disorder went missing, and was located in Howard County.

On December 14 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a man was reported missing and has not returned.

Robbery

On December 9 at 8:16 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was robbed by three people. When officers asked him what happened and what the suspects looked like, he became uncooperative.

Armed Person

On December 9 at 11:36 a.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, two men were arguing in the checkout line, and during the argument a weapon was implied. No weapon was brandished and there was no victim.

Dispute

On December 9 at 5:10 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, after an argument, one woman threatened to shoot another; officers found both women, but no weapons.

Attempted Burglary

On December 10 at 6:23 p.m. near 6201 Springhill Drive, a woman noticed damage to the doorknob when she got home and the door did not open properly. Officers made sure no burglar was present, and nothing seemed to be missing.

Theft

On December 8 at 7:15 p.m. near 7495 Greenbelt Road, two men stole a rack of clothing.

On December 11 at 10:20 a.m. near 6156 Springhill Terrace, a woman stole a package. Officers found her and she confessed. She was issued a criminal citation and released on the scene.

On December 11 at 2:00 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, shoplifters stole items and fled.

On December 12 at 9:45 a.m. near 9134 Edmonston Court, a white e-bike was stolen; at 2:16 p.m. near 9316 Edmonston Road, a mailed package was delivered, then stolen.

On December 13 at 5:53 p.m. near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a man ran off with a woman's phone.

Threats Complaint

On December 12 at 11:15 a.m. near 5923 Cherrywood Terrace, neighbors were arguing about noise.

Vandalism

On December 8 near Edmonston Terrace and Springhill Court, a stop sign was spray-painted with graffiti.

Trespassing

On December 10 at 7:40 a.m. near 5801 Cherrywood Terrace, a man, known to officers from prior encounters, was found sleeping in the stairwell of a building. He had previously been banned and was taken into custody.

On December 10 at 4:42 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an officer saw a man trespassing. The man, known from multiple previous encounters, was arrested and taken to the Department of Corrections for failing to comply, and was also in possession of controlled dangerous substances.

On December 11 at 1:27 p.m. near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, a disorderly person inside a business was issued a formal trespass notice and banned from the mall.

On December 13 at 12:52 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man approached customers and asked them for money; he was trespassing on the mall property.

On December 14 at 7:12 p.m. near 5809 Cherrywood Lane, a man was found in the stairwell of an apartment building after being banned from the location. He was charged and released on a criminal citation.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicle

On December 9 near Mandan Road and Mandan Terrace, a red 2013 Mini Cooper (Md. 2GP6965) was stolen.

Attempted Vehicle Theft

Four Kias had windows broken and ignitions damaged, consistent with attempted vehicle theft: on December 10 a 2021 Forte near 9135 Edmonston Terrace; on December 13 a Sportage near 9138 Edmonston Court, and a Kia near 6027 Springhill Drive; and on December 14 a 2022 Forte near 9108 Springhill Lane.

Stolen Vehicle Located

On December 10 near 6116 Breezewood Drive, a 2024 Lexus ES was found undamaged.

Theft from Auto

All four wheels were stolen from three vehicles: on December 10 near 6500 Capitol Drive from a 2025 Honda Accord, and on December 12 from two Toyotas near 6400 Ivy Lane and 11 Ridge Road.

On December 10 near 5925 Cherrywood Terrace, someone stole items from a 2021 Chevrolet Equinox.

On December 11 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a firearm was stolen from a vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On December 8 near 113 Centerway, someone threw a brick through a vehicle windshield.



City Notes

Community Center staff and many collaborators hosted the city's holiday party. Public Safety/Community explained Save-As-You-Throw at Greenbelt Homes, Inc.'s annual town hall and, with Constituent Services, attended the Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Media Center ribbon cutting.

Legislative/Council Engagements supported the Council Retreat and Constituent Services presented at the Rotary Club. Economic Development met with the state's Commerce Representative for Latin America about recruiting international firms.

Planning/Community Development inspected 10 commercial suites and 10 rentals and issued six permits. Animal Shelter residents are nine cats, four kittens and five dogs.

Horticulture/Parks installed solar panels at bus shelters and Streets crews prepared salt spreaders. A public sculpture, Joy, was installed at Braden Field.

The Community Center hosted three performances of the Dance Program's annual recital; Park Rangers helped with logistics. Therapeutic Recreation and Public Works provided two Active Aging trips.

CARES presented at Beltway Plaza's Health Resource Fair and the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program and Recreation hosted a Pink Pantry event.

CARES Needs Fund Donations

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be a safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players and low brass. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.





This \$34.50 ad prints 7000 times. That is \$0.0045/per paper.

www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com



Christmas Cheer

An a cappella holiday celebration with

The Chromatics

8pm Saturday, Dec. 20
2pm Sunday, Dec. 21

scan QR code for tickets or visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org



Wishing you Happy Holidays.
Merry Christmas and a
New Year full of
Peace and Joy

Silke Pope
City Councilmember



Holiday greetings from Mary Lou Williamson in the middle of Maine!

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HAIRSTYLIST – Tired of paying rent, your own supplies, taxes, business licenses? Come back to a commission shop! I supply all color, most supplies except for your own personal supplies. Call Dominick at 301-980-9200. Greenbelt area hiring. Have three spaces open.

MERCHANDISE

FOR SALE – LG 75-in. OLED EVO AI TV, C4 Series w/remote, was store display (not in box), is wrapped; LG 65-in. QNED AI TV in box; and 2-seater pale green-beige couch, have photos if needed. Call 301-575-7058 and leave voice.

REAL ESTATE RENTAL

ROOM FOR RENT – Montpelier, Laurel (off Laurel-Bowie Road also back entrance Muirkirk). House situated on corner, wooded lot. UPSTAIRS, female non-smoker. Fully furnished, 16' 6" x 12', King, a/c. Spacious vanity-bathroom w/window. Access: extra sitting room across from you. Victorian LR, bright spacious kitchen, w/refrigerator and cabinets for you! Laundry room off kitchen. Patio. \$850 includes utilities. Must be full-time employed outside house. Nancy 301-676-3996.

SERVICES

HOUSECLEANING – Over 20 years in Greenbelt area. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or one-time cleaning offered. Local references and free estimates available. Debbie, 301-523-9884.

COMPUTERS, WIFI, PRINTERS – Installing, Repairing, Troubleshooting; Documents Printing, Pickup, Dropoff, Training. JBS, 240-601-4163.

CUSTOM FLOORING, LLC – Installing all flooring products. Specializing in refinishing hardwood. Starting \$3.50 per sq. ft. Call Now 301-844-8897, www.customflooringllc.net.

HANDYMAN DAVE – Paint, woodwork, exterior house cleaning, bath, kitchens, floor, more. 443-404-0449.

CARING KIM'S PET CARE – Drop-in visits, boarding and walks. Mornings, Noon, Evenings and Nights, seven days a week. By a lifetime animal lover and caregiver. Offered for dogs, cats, and other small animals. Call Kim at 301-520-6708 for appointment or with any questions.



SOLO ELECTRICAL SERVICES, LLC and HANDYMAN – Service calls, EV chargers, Heavy ups and other electrical needs. Call 240-704-4993.

FRANK'S VIDEO CONVERSION – Convert VHS tapes/8mm movies, slides to DVD. LP records to CD. DAT tapes to CD. Home 240-295-3994, Cell 703-216-7293. franksvideoconversion@gmail.com.

HEATING AND COOLING – We specialize in installing Mitsubishi ductless heat pump systems in Greenbelt Homes. Call Mike at H & C Heating & Cooling, 301-953-2113. Licensed and insured since 1969.

ANGELA'S HOUSE CLEANING AND PAINTING – Cleaning your home like my own, at reasonable prices. Painting inside and out. References available in Greenbelt. Ten years' professional experience. AngelaLazo1@hotmail.com; 240-645-5140.

YARDS MULCHED – Garden side, \$25; Service side, \$25. No end units, sorry! Call Pat, 301-213-3273.

KELLAHER MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING, LLC – Junk removal, electrical, painting, drywall, leaf removal, landscape design, mulching flower beds, bucket truck services, stump grinding, pruning trees & removal, pole lighting, power washing siding & decks. Mulch & top soil delivery. Dkellaher@hotmail.com, 301-318-5472. Insured. Visa, MasterCard, Discover. www.Kellahermaintenance.com.

GREENBELT MASTER ELECTRICIAN – with over 20 years of experience. New installation and repair work. Call D&M Electrical Services 301-346-5335.

HAULING AND JUNK REMOVAL – Complete clean out: garages, houses, construction debris, etc. Licensed & insured. Free estimates. Mike Smith, 301-346-0840.

PIANO TUNING – Greenbelt local. Comprehensive piano tuning, service, and restoration. 831-247-0043, www.WhitehousePiano.com.



Holiday Deadlines

December 25 is a Thursday this year, as is January 1. Advertising and editorial deadlines will be a day early. Advertisements: Camera-ready display ads, classifieds and any required payments are due by 6 p.m. Monday, December 22. Material needing hands-on attention should come in by Friday, December 19. There will be no office hours on Tuesday, December 23 and no ads will be accepted that day.

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$4.00 minimum for 15 words. \$1 for each 1-5 additional words. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$11.50/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$17.25). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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GODDARD continued from page 1

of new buildings in addition to closings and demolitions, and was to occur over years, not months.

Loss of Human Capital

Americans are losing scientific opportunity and expertise as people leave the U.S. to work for competitors elsewhere in the world, said Van Hollen and others. "If you look at Goddard, they were one of the victims early on of Elon Musk coming in with a chainsaw. And they were offered these forks in the road and early buyouts and the result was about a 35 percent cut in the Goddard workforce," said Van Hollen. The Goddard workforce of about 10,000 civil servants and contractors has fallen to around 6,600, he said. Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D) called the cuts "indiscriminate" and a "smash and grab," alleging "they don't even understand what they have damaged and destroyed."

Alsobrooks stressed that the individuals being cut had 20 years' experience on average, and 45 percent of those lost were engineers, so while work is done to defend and restore funding, the expertise is not easy to replace. Hoyer said the administration had attempted to cut trillions of dollars from the budget and perhaps a million federal employees, but did so "not with a scalpel, not with knowledge of the consequences of their actions but with a chainsaw and a focus only on numbers."

Rep. Glenn Ivey (D) noted NASA's loss of experienced workers was accompanied by a hiring freeze preventing recruitment of young talent. "We don't need another Sputnik moment," said Ivey. "We need to make sure that we do everything we can to hang on to that human capital, that human talent, the genius that has made NASA the envy of the world. These are patriotic people doing great work. We need to make sure we give them the opportunity to continue to do that because the U.S. needs it, and frankly, the world needs it," he said.

Fighting Funding Cuts

Overall, the Trump administration proposed cutting NASA's budget by 24 percent, to the lowest level since 1961. However, most of those cuts are in the Science Mission Directorate where the president's budget proposes a 47 percent cut.

Van Hollen said the Maryland delegation is fighting Trump's proposed cut to the Space Science budget. He reported that the

Senate's Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Subcommittee "rejected entirely those cuts," saying they instead increased their science investment to support Goddard.

Hoyer noted "the Senate, under Republican control, did not accept those cuts," and he further celebrated a House proposal to reduce the 47 percent cut to 16 percent. He warned against continued loss of talent to Europe and Asia. "Let us hope that the American people will say to Congress, 'Do not disinvest in science; that is the future,'" said Hoyer.

Van Hollen outlined Goddard's importance to the state and the region. He noted the Eastern Shore's Wallops Space Flight Facility is part of Goddard and that Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) works heavily with Goddard, so its future is also affected by this fight. He noted Goddard's Nancy Roman Space Telescope is ahead of schedule and under budget. "The Trump administration was going to cancel that mission," claimed Van Hollen. "That's back on track," he said, "and we're working to get other major missions on track and in some cases accelerated."

Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D) said the Maryland delegation is issuing "a clarion call to our colleagues in the House and Senate to understand that the U.S.A. is on the threshold of losing its dominance in the area of space science and technology." "The work that goes on at [Goddard] and [APL] is work that cannot be produced overnight, and if we lose that dominance we will find ourselves playing catch-up to the rest of the world," said Mfume.

Rep. April Delaney (D), who sits on the House Science Space Technology Committee, warned the "cuts" are going to cost more in terms of impact to the economy and nation.

Praise for Goddard

Hoyer called Goddard an extraordinary asset to Maryland, the U.S. and the global community which has relied on Goddard and NASA "for all sorts of different reasons, including national security, including agricultural production, including saving ourselves from extraordinary weather events ..."

Jared Isaacman's (Re)Nomination

The nomination of Jared Isaacman as NASA Administrator proceeded this month with committee approval and a second

Senate hearing, with confirmation expected soon. Isaacman was first nominated in December 2024 but, after committee approval in April, Trump withdrew his nomination, due to what he called a "thorough review of prior associations." Van Hollen said Monday that Isaacman has a "positive vision of the space program, including a recognition that you can't have a space program without fundamental research, the space science, so we're on the same page." Van Hollen did acknowledge concern over a leaked document authored

by Isaacman that "talked about poaching some of the assets from places like Goddard and transferring them to other sites in the country." Van Hollen speculated that it was leaked by someone who didn't want Isaacman confirmed and said Isaacman told him he is not interested in pursuing the ideas in that document. "My view is 'show me,'" said Van Hollen. However, "he at least said that he understood the Goddard mission and how important it is," Van Hollen added.



Shaya Neveu (6) enjoys the snowy holiday season in Greenbelt.

PHOTO BY MARC NEVEU

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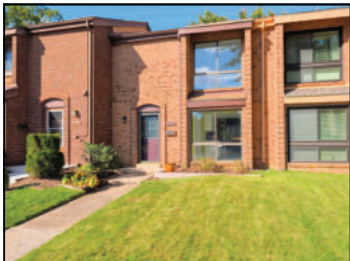


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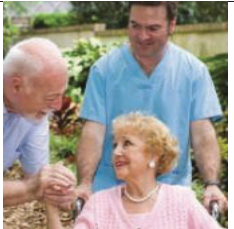


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We Are Local, & We Serve All Counties in Maryland

Fourth Annual Krampusnacht: Scarols, Dancing, Mischief

by Derson Gilson

On Saturday, December 13, Roosevelt Center came alive with music, costumes and holiday cheer during Greenbelt's fourth annual Krampusnacht, hosted by the community street band Greenbelt Honk! Situation. Roughly 100 attendees danced, watched performances and posed with costumed winter creatures on a chilly December evening.

Inspired by the Alpine folklore figure Krampus, the event blended playful mischief with holiday tradition. Greenbelt Honk! Situation performed lively holiday "scarols," weaving through the crowd rather than remaining on a stage, while the Witches of the Green Shire added theatrical flair with a dance performance. Attendees were encouraged to dress in costume and bring new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots.

Honk! founder Dan Gillotte said the goal was simple: "This would just be quiet and no one would be here. Instead, we had a party."

The band's open, inclusive approach also gives musicians

a chance to try something new. William, a recent member who typically plays classical oboe, said the experience has been both fun and educational. "It's a very welcoming community and [has] people of all skill levels. They're happy to help you learn. We bring the music to people, rather than having them come to us," he said.

Looking ahead, Greenbelt Honk! Situation plans more community events, including a solstice lantern parade from the Firefly Sanctuary to Roosevelt Center (approximately 0.8 miles) this Saturday, December 20.

The band continues to seek new members and audiences, performing locally and at festivals throughout the region. For more information on future performances or joining the band, visit greenbelthonk.org or follow the Greenbelt Honk! Situation on Facebook.

Derson Gilson is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



The Honk! Situation entertains the crowd.



John Long as Baltimore Krampus



A costume includes a doll of a snatched baby, referencing the old stories of Krampus that parents would tell their children to scare them into behaving.



Beth Leamond dances, cloaked in lights.



Dorian Winterfeld as a horned Krampus figure



Krampusnacht participant

2025 GVFD SANTA SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 21st • 6pm
Franklin Park Apartments
Motiva Apartments

Tuesday, December 23rd • 6pm
Greenbriar
Windsor Green
Hunting Ridge
Greenbelt Lake Village

Wednesday, December 24th • 6pm
Old Town
Lakewood
University Square Area
Boxwood
Lakeside North



- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt's New Deal Nut

On December 13 and 14 the 2025 Fall Performance Club put on a spectacular Greenbelt-themed adaptation of the Nutcracker, The New Deal Nut. The performances were directed and choreographed by Angella Foster and Kelly McLaughlin, with additional choreography by Gabriela D'Andrea and Lisa Pellittiere, and sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council and

the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The production included scenes from Greenbelt's past in the late 1930s and future in 2025. Familiar settings were the library, Co-op bakery, pool, cinema and the Greenbelt News Review. Young dancers ranging from kindergartners to high schoolers performed ballet and tap routines, solos and ensembles.



Dancers in newsprint depict Late Night at the Greenbelt News Review.



One of the impressive ballet sequences in the New Deal Nut

Hanukkah in Roosevelt Center

Two dozen people of different religious traditions including Baha'i, Christians, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants and Pagans gather to celebrate the third night of Hanukkah in Roosevelt Center on Tuesday, December 16.

- Photos by Michael Hartman



Menorahs are lit in Roosevelt Center on the third night of Hanukkah.